

Message Text

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51

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HUD-02 AID-20 EB-11 EUR-25 SCI-06 CEQ-02

EPA-04 GSA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-04 HEW-08 CU-04

OPIC-12 DOTE-00 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 INT-08 SCEM-02

SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

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SUBJECT: ECE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING, AND PLANNING-
34TH SESSION

1. SUMMARY: CONCLUSIONS ADOPTED BY HIGHLY
SUCCESSFUL MEETING WERE FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH
US DEL'S POLICY POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS CONSTITUTED ONE OF CENTRAL
ISSUES. USDEL, HEADED BY ARTHUR F. SAMPSON,
ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, MADE
MAJOR STATEMENT STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERING
COSTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN ESTABLISHING
ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR HOUSING, BUILDING,
AND PLANNING. COMMITTEE ENVISAGES MAKING MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION TO PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL
CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER IN 1976, ESPECIALLY DRAWING ON
EXPERTISE OF WORKING PARTIES. COUNTRY MONOGRAPHS ON
ENVIRONMENT ARE TO BE MERGED WITH CURRENT TREND
MONOGRAPHS. THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST IS BEING
REVISED AND GIVEN MORE FOCUS AS BASIS FOR IN-DEPTH
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DISCUSSION AT 35TH SESSION IN SEPTEMBER 1974.

3. US DEL MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN THE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION ON DECISION MAKING PROCESSES, EMPHASIZING THREE CENTRAL CONCEPTS: NEED TO DEVELOP NEW BREED OF MANAGERS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR; RE-STRUCTURING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, MINIMIZING ADVERSE INTERESTS; AND REFORM OF CURRICULUM IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES FOR ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, PLANNERS, ETC. IN THE DISCUSSION, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT LOCAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN TOWN PLANNING DECISIONS WAS NECESSARY AND USEFUL, BUT IT WAS ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT IN PRACTICE IT WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO ACHIEVE THIS PARTICIPATION. EMPHASIS WAS ALSO GIVEN TO IMPORTANCE OF DECENTRALIZATION IN PLANNING; NECESSITY TO CONSIDER CONSTRUCTION EFFICIENCY AND COSTS; AND KEY ROLE WHICH INVESTOR--PUBLIC OR PRIVATE--NECESSARILY PLAYED IN DECISION MAKING.

4. FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL DOCUMENTATION CENTER ON HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT (IDCHEC) RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT. USSR SUPPORTED US DEL AND ECE SECRETARIAT ON QUESTIONING APPROPRIATENESS OF "ORGANIC LINK" BETWEEN IDCHEC AND ECE COMMITTEE AND PAVED WAY FOR GENERAL AGREEMENT, INCLUDING FRENCH GOVERNMENT, ON ABANDONMENT OF THE "ORGANIC LINK" CONCEPT AND MAINTENANCE OF PRACTICAL, INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN ECE SECRETARIAT AND IDCHEC. THUS IDCHEC REMAINS AN NGO AND IS IN NO WAY TO BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF UN FAMILY. COMMISSION OF EXPERTS WILL BE CONSTITUTED TO EXAMINE DRAFT STATUTES.

5. THERE WAS FAIRLY GENERAL SUPPORT FOR A SECOND TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR IN 1976, AND APRIL 1976 WAS RESERVED ON CALENDAR FOR SEMINAR UNDER AUSPICES OF THE WORKING PARTY ON URBAN RENEWAL AND PLANNING ON AS YET UNNAMED SUBJECT.

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6. GREAT INTEREST WAS SHOWN IN FINDINGS OF SEMINAR ON THE FINANCING OF HOUSING, OF WHICH STANLEY SMIGEL (HUD) WAS CHAIRMAN. EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE REPORTED IN COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS INDICATED THAT WHILE GOVERNMENTS WERE GREATLY EXPANDING HOUSING ALLOWANCE SUBSIDIES THESE WERE NOT REGARDED AS SUBSTITUTE FOR PRODUCTION SUBSIDIES. AS LONG AS HOUSING SHORTAGES EXIST, THERE IS NEED FOR PRODUCTION INCENTIVE

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS.

7. IN WIDE-RANGING DEBATE OF CURRENT TRENDS FOLLOWING SPECIAL THEMES EMERGED: REACTION AGAINST HIGH RISE RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION; INCREASED ATTENTION TO MEASURES FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE; AND PROBLEMS OF VACANCIES IN SOME OF THE MOST RECENT HOUSE CONSTRUCTION ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGH BUILDING COSTS AND HIGH RENTS. THREE COUNTRIES SAID THAT WHEN DEMAND FOR HOUSING IS LOW, INDUSTRIALIZED PRODUCTION OF CEMENT AND WOOD PRODUCTS BECOMES NON-COMPETITIVE WITH ON-SIDE WORK.

8. CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT WAS MANIFESTED IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL THAT COMMITTEE DEVOTE SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO HOUSING PROBLEMS OF THE 10 MILLION FOREIGN WORKERS. THESE ARE WORKERS FROM ONE COUNTRY WORKING IN ANOTHER.

9. COMMITTEE EVIDENCED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN TAKING UP SUBJECT, "CONSERVATION OF ENERGY IN RESIDENTIAL USES." BUT CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION THAT IT BE MADE THE SUBJECT OF IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF NEXT SESSION OF COMMITTEE WAS PASSED OVER IN FINAL DECISION. EUROPEAN NATIONS APPEAR TO BE RELUCTANT TO ENERGY PROBLEMS IN DEPTH.BASSIN

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